

INSIDE

Would King have joined the million man march 4
Joe Clark, still fiery 5
S.T.E.R. organizes in New Jersey 8
Banks write checks they can't cash 8

Volume 13, Number 15

WHOOPI GOLDBERG APOLOGIZES TO GOV. WHITMAN OVER MISUNDERSTANDING

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Whoopi Goldberg has apologized to Gov. Christine Whitman over any misunderstanding she had asked for a state police escort to go to pre-inauguration ceremonies on time.

Goldberg called Whitman's office Tuesday to offer her apologies, said Whitman's spokeswoman, Becky Taylor, who spoke to Goldberg.

Taylor said Goldberg was nice and explained that a member of a "non-partisan" inaugural committee made the request.

"She was concerned that she not been seen as someone who was demanding attention," Whitman said. "I don't even know that she knew the request had been put out."

The Presidential Inaugural Committee asked state police Friday if troopers could escort the actress down the heavily traveled 148-mile-long highway, from the George Washington Bridge to the Delaware Memorial Bridge.

The state police executive protection unit, which serves the governor, turned down the request because it wasn't made for public safety reasons. Taylor said the governor was aware of the request, but left the call to state police.

However, Goldberg did get a state police escort in Delaware and Maryland.

"I think it's probably unfortunate for her," Whitman said. "It's never been about her."

KING'S SON: FATHER'S PRINCIPLES MUST CONTINUE

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — The principles of activism the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. used to fight racism should be applied to today's struggles for justice, his son told students at the University of Michigan.

"Martin Luther King Jr. believed in people," Martin Luther King III said Tuesday at the university's Michigan Alumni Center. "We've got to believe in people if we are going to resolve issues of poverty, racism and violence."

"We must look deep down in our souls to find the will... We cannot afford to become apathetic."

King's speech came a day after the nation commemorated his father with a holiday.

He said if his father were still alive, he would be reaching back to help Americans overcome the devastating effects of poverty and violence.

"But he would be most concerned that we have not addressed the issue of racism," King said.

King, 39, urged students to become activists, using the "ballot, books and bucks" to further civil rights.

"You are never too young to think about the electoral process," he said. "If more young people became involved in the electoral process, more young people would go to the polls."

REPORT: BLACK-JEWISH ALLIANCE GAINING STRENGTH

NEW YORK (AP) — Relations between blacks and Jews have improved as the ethnic groups are finding increased areas of common ground and purpose, according to a year-long study of media coverage.

"What this does is very much shatter the myth that black-Jewish relations today involve only conflict," Rabbi Marc Schneier, president of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, said recently.

Schneier's group, financed by a grant from Steven Spielberg's Righthousers Persons Foundation, studied thousands of reports from hundreds of publications in a search for coverage of black-Jewish relations.

A research team pored down those reports to ones involving racial issues between the communities. Positive stories outnumbered negative by more than 3 to 1. The period covered research was Dec. 1, 1995, through Dec. 15, 1996.



CITY News

Serving New Jersey's African-American Communities Since 1983

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 4, 1997

Mother, 3 daughters dead

By David Wilkinson
Associated press writer

MONTCLAIR, N.J. — Firefighters responding to a reported house fire made a grisly discovery Wednesday when they found two bound children, their sister and their mother all dead with gunshot wounds to the head.

A gun was found on the chest of the mother, Delfrances Bennett, 30, but police were treating all the deaths

as homicides pending the results of autopsies. There was no evidence of a break-in and no suspects, Chief Thomas Russo said.

"We're going to investigate all possibilities and all angles," Russo said. "We're going to give this a thorough investigation and not going to make a determination pending getting all the facts and pending the result from the medical examiner's office."

Police would provide few details

about Ms. Bennett, but she was the subject of an April story in The Star-Ledger of Newark about privatizing collection of delinquent child support payments.

Ms. Bennett told the newspaper she had been on welfare and was now struggling to make ends meet with her job.

"They ought to be as hard on the men as they are on the women," Ms. Bennett said. "We're told it's bad to be a single mother on welfare, but it's

OK to be a single father with children everywhere."

Adrienne Cheeks, 9, and sister, Kristin, 7, were found on a mattress on the floor with their hands and legs bound with cloth beside 5-year-old sister Britney Bennett. Ms. Bennett was at the foot of an adjacent bed.

Russo would not disclose the number of wounds or discuss the weapon found, including whether it had been fired.

see MONTCLAIR DEATHS/page 5

Protestors rally as President delivers 'spirit of community' message



Anti-Abortionists were among the protestors during the Inaugural ceremonies held on January 20.

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

WASHINGTON, DC — The 53rd Presidential Inauguration was the first to call on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and keeping with that spirit, President Clinton used his inaugural address to call for unity among all Americans.

President Clinton, sworn in by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, begins his second term as the first Democrat since Harry

S. Truman to be re-elected President. Among the well-wishers on the platform with him were political foes and allies alike, including political nemesis Newt Gingrich.

The conciliatory tone between politicians set the tone for Clinton's remarks after he took his oath. "The American people returned to office a president of one party, and a Congress of another, Clinton said. "Surely they did not do this to advance the policies of petty bickering and extreme partisanship they plainly de-

plore."

Clinton also said America needs to address its racial divisions and remedy what he referred to as "America's constant curse." He singled out individuals who have used political and religious convictions to further their prejudices.

Seemingly illustrating the President's point were a number of protesters along Pennsylvania Ave. holding anti-gay and anti-Semitic placards. Other protesters included anti-abortion groups,

including Operation Rescue, who were initially barred from demonstrating along the parade route, until a court ruled in their favor. "Our greatest responsibility," he said, "is to embrace a new spirit of community. For any one of us to succeed, we must succeed as one America," Clinton continued.

The event focused on celebrating the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. The Hampton University Choir as well as the College of William & Mary Choir were on hand to begin the ceremonies. Santa Jackson, closed the ceremonies with the National Anthem. He was accompanied by the Resurrection Choir, comprised of members of churches that were burned in the South over the past year.

The Inaugural Parade included the Andrew Cacho Drummers & Dancers, a Washington-based African dance group, and the marching band from Florida A&M.

Many of the African-Americans attending were particularly optimistic about Clinton's second term. Among them were Wanda Neal and her sister Georgia Gilkey, County Supervisor for the Department of Human Services in Little Rock, Ark. Both were friends of President Clinton and were there to wish their native son well.

"I feel that he is going to build that bridge that includes all politics as well," an ecstatic Ms. Neal remarked. Ms. Gilkey agreed, and also pointed out the need for Americans to be concerned about welfare reform, which Clinton championed earlier this year. "I think it has been a long time coming for welfare reform," she said. "Over the years, we created dependency as opposed to independence, and I like the President's (stance on) reforming the system which will be great for our people."

Robert Weaver, a real-estate investor from Fort Worth, Texas said of Clinton's plans, "In his inaugural address, he laid out a plan of action, not only for the country but for individuals as well," he said. "I think that during the next four years, as we approach the new millennium, we will see change."

Judge Thomas Brown First Native American appointed to NJ bench, first African American from Burlington County

CAMDEN, N.J. — Thomas A. Brown of Cinnaminson, who is the first African American appointed from Burlington County, was recently sworn in as a judge of the Superior Court at the Hall of Justice in Camden.

"Today we are installing on the bench an individual of the highest quality and character," said Gov. Whitman. "On the professional side, Judge Brown's accomplishments are lengthy and impressive. On the personal side, he is a trailblazer and an inspiration."

Judge Brown previously served as an assistant United States Attorney, in the criminal division, in Camden. He has also served as a senior trial attorney for the federal Department of Labor.

Judge Brown was born and raised in Camden and is a member of the Camden Professional Roundtable and the advisory board of the United Negro College Fund. He is also a mem-

ber of the tribal council of the Powhatan Renape Indian Nation.

He is the first person of Native American descent ever appointed to the bench in New Jersey, and the first African American to be appointed from Burlington County.

"Judge Brown's roots in Camden have remained strong. He is committed to a new Camden where there is true community and where families are strong," said Gov. Whitman. "And we move one step closer to that today with the swearing in of Judge Brown."

Governor Whitman has been committed to improving the racial diversity on the bench, as well as appointing qualified minorities to the state's boards and commissions.

Since taking office, Governor Whitman has appointed over 400 minorities to key boards and commissions.

In addition, she has appointed the first African American to New Jersey's Supreme Court.



Left to right, Gov. Christine Todd Whitman swears-in Judge Thomas A. Brown, Sabiene Hunter-Brown, his wife, daughter, Nicole Brown, oldest son Ian Brown and Trevor Brown, his youngest son.

Remembering the Movement

REV. WILLIE SIMMONS TELLS HIS STORY



Rev. Simmons and Yolanda King, daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, at recent YMWCA, Newark event.

by Sonya Kimble-Ellis

The Civil Rights Movement was a time of pain, struggle and eventually, accomplishment. There were church burnings, sit-ins, boycotts and marches, all in the name of the fight for equality. The Rev. Dr. Willie A. Simmons, president of the United Community Corporation and Assistant Pastor of Newark's First Corinthian Baptist Church, stood on the front lines of the movement.

Along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Andrew Young, Wyatt T. Walker, Rev. Ralph Abernathy and many others, Reverend Simmons faced barking dogs, fire hoses and angry, shouting racists. His involvement in Civil Rights began soon after he became an ordained pastor at Birmingham's New Bethel Baptist Church in 1960. He became active in the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, an organization affiliated with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

"At that time," he told City News, "all the stores and restaurants had colored and white sections. There was a place in the back for Negroes to eat. The bus stations were the same."

Born in Pell City, Alabama, Reverend Simmons later moved to Birmingham with his family. A few years after becoming a minister, he found himself marching down the streets of Birmingham, arm-in-arm with other freedom fighters. He recalls marching past the mobs of people, being pushed to the ground by the force of the water hoses and watching people being beaten by police officers and attacked by dogs. "It was a terrible time," he said, "but we were marching to bring down the walls of segregation."

Before Rev. Simmons and the others knew it, the National Guard had been called in by well-known racist Birmingham Police Commissioner Bull Connor. They forced marchers into school buses and carried them off to jail. Simmons, himself, didn't spend time in jail. But he spent time organizing and trying to help others get out. It was Robert Kennedy who was ultimately able to get everyone out of jail.

Soon after the jailing incident, four little girls were killed in a church bombing. Simmons lost these little girls and their families, and he grieved with them. But, according to Rev. Simmons, the grieving, fear and constant opposition to the Civil Rights struggle would not be over for some time into school buses and carried them off to jail.

In this interview he revealed that whites weren't the only ones who opposed what Dr. King and his supporters were trying to do. "There were ministers in Alabama who wouldn't let us hold meetings in their churches," Simmons said with a touch of sadness in his voice. "They were scared," he said explaining that a lot of ministers and blacks in the South didn't fully support the Civil Rights Movement until after Martin Luther King Jr.'s

see SIMMONS/page 4

Community Calendar

JANUARY 29, FEBRUARY 12, 26, MARCH 5, 19, APRIL 2

WAYNE—Interactive television (ITV) course can be taken at William Paterson College, Hasbrouck Heights High School, Wierwood High School or School #26 in Paterson. For more information, call 201-595-2436.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

PLAINFIELD—The Role of Partnerships in Improving the Health of the Community is the featured topic for the first meeting of the central New Jersey Partnership for Community Health Improvement to be held at 5:30 p.m. at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center. For more information, call 908-668-3170.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

PLAINFIELD—The Senior Citizens Service Center invites the members to a Birthday Party starting at 1:30p.m. Transportation info be provided. For more details call (908) 753-3303.

CRANFORD—Course, "Introduction to Computers" at Union County College. For more information, call Roy Smith, 908-709-7501.

FAX your events to 908-754-1036.

BLACK HISTORY CALENDAR

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 2

MIDDLETOWN—The work of photographers Jeff Martin and Michael Sakes will be on display in the Health Wing of the Red Hill Activity Center at Tatum Park, Red Hill Rd. It will be part of a larger exhibit designed to celebrate African-American culture and history. For more information, call (908) 942-4000. For persons with hearing impairment, the TDD machine number is (908) 919-9484.

JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 2

NEW YORK—National Black Fine Art Show at the Puck, Big, Lafayette & Houston streets. For tickets and information, call (212) 747-0612.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 16

NEW BRUNSWICK—Play, "The Meeting," a fictionalized account of a meeting between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. starring Marcus Taylor, Cedric Turner, and Barry Lorne Smith, at the Crossroads Theatre, 7 Livingston Ave. For more information, call Crossroads Box Office (908) 249-5560.

FEB 1, 8, 15, 22, MAR 1, 8, 15, 22

NORTH BRANCH—Sky Show, "Follow the Drinking Gourd," which will teach the importance of the Big Dipper to runaway slaves at the Planetarium at Raritan Valley Community College, Rte. 28 & Lammington Rd. For more information, call (908) 231-8805.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

NEWARK—Films, "Zajzota and the Boogie Spirit" by Akoka Chanzira, "Didn't We Ramble On: The Black Marching Band" narrated by the late Dizzy Gillespie, and "Celebration: A Caribbean Festival" by Karen Kramer. Part of the February Film Series at the Newark Museum, Billy Johnson Auditorium, 49 Washington St. For more information, call (201) 596-6350. For TTY calls, (201) 596-6355.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

PLAINFIELD—Speaker, Dr. Larry Leverett, Superintendent of Schools, Cross of Life Church, 1240 East Seventh St. Also performing is the all-male Christian step team, the Nubian Genies.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

at
Cross of Life Lutheran Church
1240 East 7th Street, Plainfield 07068-5788

Join us for **Special Speakers & Special Musical Groups** each Sunday of February at 11:00 a.m. Sat. Feb. 23: Dr. Larry Leverett, Superintendent of Schools, Plainfield, & the Nubian Genies Step Team, Queens

Call the Church for a complete schedule of events.

We are located across from the Ampy—just west of Lanside Ave. Parking is in the rear—Please join us! The Rev. Carol A. Lindley, Pastor

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

MIDDLETOWN—Central Jersey Tall Friends Club will have a wine/beer tasting party at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$8.00. For more information call (908) 957-0876 by 1/29/97.

SATURDAYS, FEB. 1 - MAY 10

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College will offer a preparation course for the NJ Real Estate Salesperson's (Agent) Licensing Examination on Saturdays 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on the JCSC campus at 2036 Kennedy Blvd. For further information call (201) 200-3069.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

EDISON—The Central Jersey Tall Friends Club will have an international dining night at South Pacific Restaurant, 3126 Woodbridge Ave. For more information call (908) 906-7833 by Feb.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

MONMOUTH—The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders will have a workshop meeting at 2 p.m. For more information call (908) 431-7387.

For more information, call Rev. Carol A. Lindley (908) 755-6768.

NEWARK—Film, "The KKK Boutique Ain't Just Rednecks," co-sponsored by the Alafia Art Gallery, At the Newark Museum, Billy Johnson Auditorium, 49 Washington St. For more information, call (201) 596-6350. For TTY calls, (201) 596-6355.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

EDISON—Africa in Motion Dance Theater featuring Gregory Ince and Malikia Ince opens a month long program themed "Success Runs in our Race" at Middlesex County College, 11 a.m. in the College Center, 155 Mill Rd. For more information call Patrick Mathias, (908) 906-2566.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

EDISON—African-American inventors exhibit and presentation at Middlesex County College, 155 Mill Rd., 10 a.m. - 12 noon. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (908) 906-2566.

JERSEY CITY—Michael Strickland will deliver Jersey City State College's First Annual Paul Robeson Scholar Lecture, 11 a.m. at Jersey City State College, 2030 Kennedy Blvd. For more information, call 201-200-3524.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

NEW BRUNSWICK—African-American inventors, exhibit and presentation 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. with a lecture at 10:30 a.m. Middlesex County College New Brunswick Center 155 Mill Rd. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (908) 906-2566.

TV—"Just Black?" will air on OODYSSEY (formerly the Faith & Values Channel) at 10 p.m. and will repeat at 1 a.m. This program features the candid thoughts of biracial college students on their mixed racial heritage.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

EDISON—Keith Maris, jazz musician, performs at the Middlesex County College College Center 155 Mill Rd., 12 noon. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (908) 906-2566.

WOODBIDGE—Branda Cooley (l), national first vice president of Blacks in Government, recently presented a plaque to Retiree Roberta Douglas. Douglas retired as the chief executive officer for the Woodbridge Developmental Center. About 250 officials, staff, friends and family honored her at a retirement dinner on January 17, 1997 in the Cameo Restaurant, Woodbridge. Douglas had also served as Chairperson of the National Board of Directors of Blacks in Government. Douglas retired after 31 years with the New Jersey State Department of Human Services. She started as an institutional assistant at the Woodbridge center in February 1965. After various assignments at other centers and a degree in nursing and a master's degree, she returned to the Woodbridge center as CEO on July 30, 1990. She and her husband, Alford, a retired engineer for the Long Island Railroad, will live in their newly-built home in Fredricksburg, Virginia. William Waldman, Commissioner of the New Jersey State Department of Human Services also attended the retirement dinner.



ASBURY PARK—John R. Brown, left, owner of El Lobo Negro Art Gallery, and Arletta Jerry C. Harris, Teaneck, display his "Summer in the City" painting. Harris' three-dimensional relief painting depicts a typical summer scene in his native New York City.



Janice Starke (2nd from r), president of the EXODUS Support Group, presents a \$300 check to **Keith Wom**, EXODUS founder and CEO. Looking on are **Madeline Higginbotham** (l), EXODUS Clinical Coordinator and the group's advisor, and **Hansen Robinson** (r), the group's treasurer. EXODUS is a rehabilitation/helpline facility for male substance abusers. Proceeds were from a dance sponsored by the support group.

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

BY MISS ANNA

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK: Your social agenda will be quite lively for the next several months. You will have your fair share of popularity with the opposite sex, and there is great potential for a new romance. Regarding money matters, try to consolidate any future gains into one solid investment.

ARIES: (March 21-April 20)

Your spirit of independence and adventure is strong during the week, and you may likely seek adventures and opportunities far from home. Hasty decisions to questions concerning the job or everyday routine need to be avoided. Steer clear of troublemakers.

TAURUS: (April 21-May 21)

Your mate or business partner will be very helpful in matters relating to financial dealings. Don't bet on sure of what seems like a safe bet, avoid taking any foolish risks. There are a few opportunities in various areas which will expand your horizons.

GEMINI: (May 22-June 21)

An agreement with a companion can unleash a new potential for mutual expression, whether in a creative field, personal alliance or money-making scheme. You have the tendency to take much for granted and magnify situations which are not all that they seem; be careful.

CANCER: (June 22-July 23)

Your creative juices are flowing in all directions, and positively affecting everything you do. Your heightened creativity and inventiveness will add another dimension to your work. Instead of forging ahead on your own, it's best to enlist the help of others close to you.

VIRGO: (August 24-September 23)

Be extra cautious in communications with a loved one. Avoid arguing and using a take charge attitude, for this is definitely a joint venture. There may be a problem at work with a new co-worker, so rise above resentments and reach for a new status through hard work.

LIBRA: (September 24-October 23)

This week is no time to let your emotions overrule your mind, try hard to follow your intuitions. Between ups and downs in home life, romance, creative pursuits and finances, you will feel like you are on a seesaw game. Somehow, everything will turn out fine.

SCORPIO: (October 24-November 22)

Your intuition is in high gear now, so try to listen to your inner voice regarding a financial deal. In other matters, particularly your home life, it will probably be necessary to compromise. Zero in on routine chores and you will accomplish what a bit.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23-December 21)

Forge ahead and climb up that career ladder, you have more support from higher ups than you realize. Diverse trends favor your money activities, but don't be tempted to throw away advantages you've gained to obtain instant profits. Don't try to please everyone.

CAPRICORN: (December 22-January 20)

Try to complete unfinished odds and ends at work by mid-week, when personal interests will take over. Cooperation from others is scarce, so no matter what you do, there will probably be a bit of trouble. Your financial picture is becoming rather rocky.

AQUARIUS: (January 21-February 19)

This week could be rather hectic, and you have the tendency to overdo it, so at least try to pace yourself. Try not to overstep, because coming up short will be tougher to work your way out of. Your pleasing manner and attractiveness will be assets in dealing with the public.

PISCES: (February 20-March 20)

Business activities may be a bit disappointing; perhaps your expectations are exceeding possibilities. If you are getting the feeling that someone is undermining you on the job, you could be right. Do some investigating on your own, and don't overreact.

Join The
100 Most Influential.
Honor
those who
help to
build the
black
community

City News Publishing Company

invites you to nominate
your candidate for the

Second Annual 100 Most Influential Award

Event: May 1, 1997

For information call 908-754-3400

(Please only use official nomination form below)

Recognizing the 100 Most influential who have fostered the progress of black people or the rebuilding of New Jersey's urban centers

You must use this form or one from City News to nominate a person for the 100 Most Influential. You must identify yourself and a phone number where you can be reached. The 2nd Annual 100 Most Influential will be held May 1, 1997.

Nomination Form

All information is confidential. Deadline is February 1, 1997.

Nominee's name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home phone _____ Business phone _____ Fax _____
Briefly describe why you feel your nominee has contributed significantly to the progress of black people in New Jersey or to the rebuilding of New Jersey's urban centers.

Your name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
How do you know this person?
Send to: City News 100, PO Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07060 or fax to (908) 753-1036.
For information call (908) 754-3400.

Nominee Categories: Please check one category
____ Education _____ Economic & Community Development
____ Minority Business Enterprise _____ Corporate Community Involvement
____ Entertainment & Sports _____ Politics, Law & Government
____ Health, Science & Technology _____ Media, Arts & Culture
____ Religion _____ Civil Rights

An Evening With
The Deacons
February 15, 1997
The Party
6:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
Dinner & Show
For Ticket Information Call:
The Priority at
St. Joseph's Plaza
235 West Market St.
Newark, NJ (201) 242-9012
Sound Central
265 12 Lyons Ave.
Newark, NJ (201) 923-4000
KJH
Enterprises Inc.
Scott Plains, NJ
(908) 233-1362
For Information
Call (908) 754-3400

EDITORIAL

Use our history to focus on future and progress

As we move from celebrating the national holiday recognizing the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and move into celebrating Black History month, there is growing realization that black America is at a new crossroads on how to move forward. Do we stay locked into the past, civil rights and cultural celebration, or do we move toward the future, economic rights and cultural celebration? During this transition, as in the 1960's, there is a period of confusion. While many in the black community continue to push the system to help solve the problems which the systems continues to perpetuate that deny us equal access, others of us will focus on those areas necessary to build our economic system. While there is an increasing demand to accept either an economic solution or a political solution, in reality both roads must be traveled.

We cannot forget that the Civil Rights movement generated the greatest liberation of blacks in the world. More black men and women moved into the middle class, black income rose significantly, more black youth entered colleges and universities and obtained degrees, and more black men and women entered the workforce. The revenue of blacks, nearly \$400 billion annually, is larger than the GNP of the 6th largest nation in the world. We cannot abandon the principles of the Civil Rights Movement. In fact the tools of the Civil Rights movement: affirmative action, set asides, and purchasing opportunities, are so successful that those who fear black progress have them repealed. Those merchants of divide and conquer politics, have used race, fear, crime, and economic down turns, over the last 20 years, to vilify black men and women and the tools of the Civil Rights Movement to make the tools politically incorrect. We found many including the President abandoning association with these tools in favor of verbiage more palatable to the constituency.

Do not mistake about this, there has always been a point in history where the politicians betrayed the liberation of black men and women. Historically, black men and women have had to fight their own battles and not solely rely on those who want to be politically correct to speak for them. But they have always been joined by those with a moral compass who have not. We have turned to religion to replace the conservative voter, blacks may find Democrats playing hide and seek on issues of progress for black America. Likewise Republicans and Democrats, may be unwilling to support a plan to help blacks gain economic power. Yet moving away from a civil rights agenda to a economic rights plan is necessary and we must use our history to focus on progress in the future.

COMMENTARY

Celebrating "OURSTORY"

By Kai A. Niyono

Peace FAMILY, we have been stripped of "ourstory" since landing on the shores of this Western world. "History" (his-story) was taught to us based on his version of our accomplishments while existing in America. As our remembrers say, we have been "dissected" dis-connected from our heritage (our roots as a people). Some of us do not look towards Afrika as "The Cradle of Civilization." Our umbilical cord was cut from Afrika. We have been pumped up with a negative image of Afrika that is frequently portrayed to us through television and the media. Yet the "other" man live on the motherland, thank about it.

It is a recognized fact that we, as Black people do not have a birth record. Why then, are we only focusing on "ourstory" in February, which is the shortest month of the year? It is time that we take charge of our education and decide for ourselves how long we will commit ourselves to study and reflect on "ourstory."

We have such a rich heritage and have contributed greatly to humanity that there's NO REASON why we should limit ourselves to 28 days of studying "ourstory." It is time that we take control of our lives, and solve

death. Some people felt that blacks should "know their place." They saw freedom fighters as "trouble-makers" and "troublemakers."

Much has been written about Dr. King and many vintage film clips shown. But what was he really like? "I got to talk to Martin several times," Simmons shared. "I don't think, initially, that he knew he was chosen. He didn't realize he was chosen to lead

our problems. Since knowledge is power, in knowing "ourstory" we will grow in POWER—power organized working for economic rebirth!!!"

We must practice the principle of "Kujichagulia" Self determination: To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves, without being spoken for by others. —Kawaida Theory by Maulana Karenga

"Afrikan people, not to longer allow ourselves to be "enslaved" by the world view of others..." —page 4, Kunguana Simmonds by Shabazz J. H. Hassan K. Salim

Go to your local library and bookstores and get books and videos on "ourstory" and read and learn what every you can to develop a strong sense of pride in being the mighty people we are. Attend as many cultural events as you can and take the children with you, make it a family affair. The library is free to the public so go and utilize the resources there.

continued from page 1

the struggle. It was just start upon him."

More than thirty years after his work with the Civil Rights Movement, Rev. Simmons is now able to enjoy the fruits of his labor. He can sit in the front of the bus, eat at any lunch counter; vote; and, drink from any water fountain. And best of all, he is able to share his story with the countless people who weren't there.

By C. Mason Weaver

What is the goal of the black community? Economic power or political power? Political power is a group experience, it is usually acquired through a structured organization, run by clearly defined leaders, for the purpose of meeting mutually agreed upon goals. People can join together to acquire political power under many different organizations and groups. You can be a member of a political party or an ideological constituency. You can work toward your political means as a member of a group like the Concerned Women for America, National Organization for Women, John Birch Society or your local church. This is a proven, successful way to ensure political power. But does political power ensure economic power?

By Dr. Keith Orlando Hilton

The 1995 Million Man March (MMM), like the 1963 March on Washington, was bigger than any one man, however, four men deserve to be recognized at this time — A. Philip Randolph, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad and Minister Louis Farrakhan.

We strongly urge readers to take the time to re-read Dr. King's entire "I Have a Dream" speech. Don't just recite the sound bites that we hear each January.

As to the Million Man March: You can't separate the message from the messenger. In other words, those who were in favor of the 1995 March should continue rallying around Minister Farrakhan rather than distancing themselves.

It should be noted that even when pressured, Mandela refused to denounce Castro, Ararat, Gadhafi and others who supported South Africa's liberation movements.

To paraphrase attorney Johnnie Cochran, who said in his closing arguments in the 1995 O.J. Simpson trial, "If you cannot believe the messenger, you must reject the message." Therefore, "If you cannot believe Minister Farrakhan, then you must reject his correct call for Black re-empowerment."

It is important to note that Dr. King's organization, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) was supportive and right on target in the Million Man March.

In 1995 SCLC remained true to the legacy of King, then it stands to reason that he would be proud of his organization, the Nation of Islam, and the other groups that came together on Oct. 16th.

By 1968, five years after the 1963 March on Washington, Dr. King, however, was also being criticized by some groups that praised him earlier. They didn't like the fact that he was

Washington, DC—There was something special about celebrating Dr. King's birthday on the same day President Clinton was inaugurated for his second term. For those of us in Rainbow/PUSH, the highlights of the day were provided by Reverend Jackson's inspired preaching at the early morning prayer breakfast, as he offered to help the President mobilize and energize the population on behalf of change and reform and the marvelous singing of Sand La Jackson, backed up by choirs from burned churches.

Much of President Clinton's inaugural address was also worth remembering. After all, it's not every day in America that a President talks about the curse of the racial divide and the promise of America, using the words of those high points below (with emphasis added).

Frankly, we would like to see the President make the history books because great presidents, enlightened presidents, are known for taking risks, for standing up for the common people, for finding solutions to age-old problems. The great historic president we should emulate is Dr. King. It is the promise of America, using the help of an energized people.

When the President stands from these words, we will remind him, but when the President and the First Lady stand up for them, we will fight alongside.

Too much Political Power, not enough economic independence

economic power?

Have you ever noticed that Japanese "communities" do not seem to worry about how many Japanese Congressmen there are? Ever curious why you do not have a Korean Congressional Caucus? It seems odd to me that "Arab Americans" and "Jewish Americans" with such strong and traditional political priorities seem more interested in politics in America than politics. Why? Because economics, not politics, is the path to achieving real personal freedom.

However, economic empowerment is the individual, not social leaders. The social leaders of every group are only interested in political power because that empowers them. If the individual becomes powerful, that individual will not need a leader. That is why we have so much focus on political power, not the power of

self-determination.

While we prepare ourselves for the season of black cultural awareness, let us also prepare ourselves for independence from our cultural chains. While we celebrate the make-believe festival of Kwanzaa in December, honor Martin Luther King Jr. in January and clothe ourselves in African costumes during February, let us remember the reason some of us still feel oppressed: the drugs, crime, high taxes, bad schools and welfare are due more from lack of money than lack of political power.

I do not care how you define the "black culture." If the culture has no strong semi-independent economic base, then it resembles a plantation, not a community. The civil rights movement was very much about gaining control over economic means, and not so much about gaining political

cal power as an end in itself. Of course, voting rights were a very important issue during the civil rights movement. But the March on Washington, boycotts, demonstrations and civil disobedience often focused on jobs.

Jobs were the reason Martin Luther King traveled to Memphis the week of his assassination. Jobs were the inspiration for the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the motivation behind the passage of affirmative action laws. Civil rights is of little help if the individual cannot secure income and take advantage of the right to live and work where he pleases. Economic freedom are not decided by political parties or social culture, it is decided by the individual willing to sacrifice all he has for all he desires. That is freedom and that is America.

Would King have participated in the Million Man March?

others who supported South Africa's liberation movements.

To paraphrase attorney Johnnie Cochran, who said in his closing arguments in the 1995 O.J. Simpson trial, "If you cannot believe the messenger, you must reject the message." Therefore, "If you cannot believe Minister Farrakhan, then you must reject his correct call for Black re-empowerment."

It is important to note that Dr. King's organization, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) was supportive and right on target in the Million Man March.

In 1995 SCLC remained true to the legacy of King, then it stands to reason that he would be proud of his organization, the Nation of Islam, and the other groups that came together on Oct. 16th.

By 1968, five years after the 1963 March on Washington, Dr. King, however, was also being criticized by some groups that praised him earlier. They didn't like the fact that he was

"straightening his Black back" when he opposed the Vietnam War.

Some who now criticize Farrakhan and evoke King's name also distanced themselves from King because he made such an "anti-semitic" statement; "...My nation is the greatest purveyor of violence in the world."

Those who say that the MMM was bigger than one man are correct, however, one man stepped forward in the tradition of Randolph, Delaney, Trotter, Muhammad and Garvey and initiated a call for re-empowerment just another man dead 32 years earlier.

Although Minister Louis Farrakhan continues to downplay his role in this march, he deserves full credit for jump starting this event. Only the disciplined, strong Fruit of Islam could have organized such a massive march.

"One million Black men will be in the march," he said. "We must rise up in this time and seize the hour,

seize the moment, because this moment can never be again."

Some may be surprised to find that King's message about Black empowerment was very consistent with that of Minister Farrakhan's speech about Black re-empowerment.

The 1963 March on Washington was about jobs and freedom. Yes, racial equality was an important issue then and remains so today, however, the March was primarily about empowering the Black community.

On Oct. 16, 1995, over two million Black men together rekindled that re-empowerment message and anyone who continues to say that ONLY 400,000 people turned out for the March needs to be looked at with suspicion.

As a follow-up to the MMM, the NOI convened two other major 1996 world events, the National Political Convention in St. Louis and on Oct. 16, at the United Nations Plaza in New York, the observance of World's Day of the African People. We should watch these events with great interest.

JaxFax recalls high points of President's address

Reprinted from JaxFax, the newsletter of the Rainbow Coalition

"Martin Luther King's dream was the American dream. His quest is our quest—the ceaseless striving to live out our true creed."

"Our history has been built on such dreams and labors, and by our dreams and labors we will redeem the promise of America in the 21st century."

"The divide of race has been America's constant curse. In fact, the new wave of immigrants gives new targets to old prejudices. Prejudice of religious or political conviction are no different. They have nearly destroyed us in the past. They plague us still. They fuel the fanaticism of terror. They torment the lives of millions of our fractured nations around the world..."

"We cannot, we will not, succumb to the dark impulses that lurk in the far regions of the soul, everywhere. We shall overcome them, and we shall replace them with the generous spirit of a people who feel at home with one another."

"Our rich texture of racial, religious and political diversity will be a godsend in the 21st century. Great rewards will come to those who can live together, learn together, work together, forge new ties that bind to-

gether."

"For the very first time in all of history, more people on this planet live under democracy than dictatorship."

"In this new land, education will be every citizen's most prized possession. Our schools will raise the standards in the world, igniting the spark of possibility in the eyes of every girl and every boy. And the doors of higher education will be open to all."

"The knowledge and power of the information age will be within reach not just to the few, but to every classroom, every library, every child."

"Everyone who can work will work, with today's permanent underclass becoming a part of tomorrow's growing middle class."

"Our children will sleep free from the threat of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons... And the world's greatest democracy will lead a whole world of democracies."

"And in this land of new promise we will have reformed our politics so that the voice of the people will always speak louder than the din of narrow interest, regaining the participation and deserving the trust of all Americans."

"Yes, let us build our bridge, a

bridge wide enough and strong enough for every American to cross over to a blessed land of new promise."

Revisiting history: JaxFax believes it is worth pointing out that despite the media slant on this issue, Reverend Jackson did not change his position on Ebonies; rather, the Oakland School Board refined their initial position, at which point they reached common ground.

JaxFax wants to offer our best wishes to Labor Secretary-designate Alexis Herman, as she begins the confirmation process. She has earned her chance to help the working men and women of this country to a better life.

JaxFax is pleased to offer our assistance in lobbying for a Paul Robeson Centennial Stamp to be issued in 1998. Sadly, the vast majority of Americans do not know the name of this great American Trailblazer. He was the second African American to graduate from Columbia University Law School, a keen scholar, a gifted athlete and a dedicated fighter against racism. Join us by writing a letter of support to Dr. Virginia Noelle, chair Citizens Advocacy Stamp Committee, 475 L. Enfant Plaza SW, PM 4474 Washington, DC 20060

African-American children hit hard by poverty

By Vladimir Hexard

Children below age six are swelling the ranks of the neediest African-American youngsters endure the greatest incidence of poverty of any ethnic group nationally, a Columbia University study found.

The study, "One in Four: America's Youngest Poor," by the National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University School of Public Health, found that the number of impoverished children under age six nearly doubled nationally from 3.5 million to 6.1 million between 1979 and 1994.

At the same time the rate of impoverished white children rose by twice as much as African Americans: 38 percent against 19 percent.

White children, the study cited, are the largest single ethnic group of poor young children. In 1994, more than 2.2 million young whites lived in poverty in the U.S., while as much

as 1.9 million African American and 1.7 Hispanic children did.

Among Hispanics, the poverty rate jumped by 43 percent since the 1970s, dramatically rising faster than in any other racial group, the study reported.

Overall, the study found, young children of color were far more likely to experience dire poverty than whites. Hardest-hit are African-American children. While six percent of white youths were desperately poor in 1994, 30 percent of young African-American children lived with families having incomes averaging less than 50 percent of the federal poverty level.

In Illinois the picture was equally stark for the young. During 1990 and 1994, 301,000 or 26.1 percent of children under age six in the state were poor. In 1994 the poverty line for the state was \$15,141 for a family of four. In the city of Chicago the picture was even worse. About 48 percent (146,000) children lived in poverty in the city with more than half or 87,000 classi-

fied as extremely poor. In 1994 the poverty threshold for the city was \$7,571 for a family of four.

Reducing the rate of young child poverty rate would be one of the best things that state and local governments could do to have a cost-effective impact on a number of pressing human, social and economic problems," said Larry Aber, director of the National Center for Children in Poverty.

Geography also figured into the study. While urban children are more likely to be poor than their peers elsewhere, child poverty increased at a faster pace in the suburbs than in rural areas. Between the 1970s and the 1990s suburban rates increased by 59 percent while rural rates increased by 45 percent.

On a more positive note, last year, the U.S. Census Bureau posted a slight improvement in the poverty rate for children under the age of six.

CITY NEWS
The New Journal of Civilization

Publisher
Henry C. Johnson Ph.D.

Executive Editor
Dan M. Edgerton Johnson

Director of Advertising Sales
Henry C. Johnson

Contributing Writers
Aakia Muhammad, Sharon Vincent, Avery Grant, Jereme Johnson, Sonya Kimble-Elis, Bill Reed, Doreen Jenkins

Composition & Layout
C.J. Johnson, Steve Green

City News is published weekly by City News Publishing Company
P.O. Box 1774, 14th North Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060
Phone: 908-754-3400 Fax: 753-1036

Serving the African American community for 13 years

CITY NEWS
SUBSCRIPTION FORM

The Heartbeat of the City

☐ \$39 CITY NEWS
☐ \$19 MINORITY BUSINESS JOURNAL
☐ \$10 MINORITY BUSINESS TO BUSINESS DIRECTORY
☐ \$15 YES MAGAZINE

☐ SEND ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Subscribe today and don't miss a beat!

* appropriate box to indicate subscription desired.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Make check payable and send to City News, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07060

Grapevine

Jessica Care Moore, five time winner of Amateur Night at "Showtime at the Apollo" will star at Culture Night sponsored by WLBI, City News, S.C.O.P.E., Plainfield Urban Clergy Assoc., Gentlemen's Club, Plainfield Board of Education and the Black Women's History Conference. The date is Friday, January 31, 1997. Culture night is an evening of poetry, music, dancing and conversation for the "hip hop generation."

Plans are underway for Congressman Donald Payne's Gala Tribute for 40 years of outstanding service. The event is scheduled for March 15 at the Meadowlands Hilton. For information, call (201) 643-4422.

Congratulations to C.O.P.F.E. (Community Oriented Five Fighters for Eminent Equity) award winners in the upcoming annual dinner dance on February 8, 1997. Honorees are: Milt Campbell, Rickey Smiley, James West, William "Bill" Gary, and James Black.

Congratulations to honorees at the Frontiers International Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast Honored at the event were: Youth in Action Movement, Community Spirit, Karen Melissa Richards, New Horizons College Club and Patricia A. Fields as "Citizen of the Year."

Fields is known for her work with teen parenting program at Plainfield High School for organizing "A Festival for Kids" each year.

Nordstrom and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., New Jersey Chapter, will hold a celebration of Black History on Sunday, February 9, 1997, at 7 p.m., at Nordstrom in Menlo Park Mall. An evening of fashion, special exhibits, trunk shows, private shopping and wonderful entertainment, featuring "Return to the Source" — all in celebration of African-American History. For information, call (201) 434-4096.

Cross of Life Church Observes Black History Month with a month-long celebration. On February 2, Dr. Larry Leverett, superintendent of schools in Plainfield will speak. Performing on that day will be the Nigerian Gens, an all-male Christian step team who will sing and recite scripture. These rhythmic seventh and eighth graders from Magnetech Junior High in Queens have appeared at the Apollo Theater and at the Black and Latino Caucuses in Manhattan.

February 9 will have a spiritual theme with special presentation by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. featuring a collage of black women's poetry presented with a dramatic twist.

African Wood Masks

in New Jersey

- 500 Pcs.—\$20 ea.
- 9 ft. Women—\$8,000
- Spears—\$40 ea.
- Old Masks—\$150 ea.
- Ekol Figures—\$400 ea.

908-363-2952

-Open Seven Days-

Joe Clark: still fiery, still tells it like it is

by Avery Grant

ASBURY PARK: Educator Joe Louis Clark speaking in St. Stephen AME Zion Church, Asbury Park, challenged the youths to be their best and be committed.

Paraphrasing popular television soap opera titles, Clark said, "It shall be by your dedication and commitment that you will be able to 'search for your tomorrow' with 'the guiding light.' Education is the key." Clark rose to fame as the bat-wielding principal of Eastside High School in Paterson, and was credited with restoring order and the learning process in the beleaguered school.

Clark was the guest speaker for the Fifth Annual Commemorative Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance sponsored by the church's Youth Council. Continuing to challenge the youths, he told them, "You must prepare yourself now for opportunities to come. It is better to be prepared for an opportunity that doesn't come, than not to be prepared when opportunity comes."

He is currently the Director of the Essex County Youth Detention Center in Newark. After leaving Eastside High School, Clark said he went on the lecture circuit for six years. "I was contented, but I was not fulfilled. I didn't feel that I was part of the struggle. He is glad to be working with youths again because, 'we are in

more trouble than I thought." To the adults, he said, "Don't blame your children, blame yourselves. They need leadership, directions and love from you. The hoodlums and druggies on the corners are giving them that leadership. I tell the churches that we could win this struggle overnight if the saints went out into the streets." Seriously, but in a humorous vein, Clark said, "I don't fear nobody. I walk down the street and even dogs stop barking, because I am doing what God put me here to do."

Clark said he revered Dr. King so much because he was a galvanizing force for bringing change to our Nation, and was a man about business, doing God's work. "The reason so many fail is because we are not doing what God put us here to do," he said. He urged that everyone, all peoples, come together as one and polarization will disappear, and they will be able to live together in brother and sister, recognizing that their fates are inextricably woven together.

Again referring to Dr. King's philosophy, Clark said, "Let's stop judging (people) by the size of their nose or the texture of their hair, you should judge them by the content of their character." Humorously he remarked that his grandfather told him that a black snake will bite you just as soon as a white snake.

Clark explaining his famous and controversial bat wielding, he held up his bat and said, "I used the baseball bat to get the attention of the media,

they only respond to the dramatic. I never hit any child with a bat. My goodness kids now have 9mm (guns) and oozie machineguns."

Again Clark cautioned the adults not to blame the teachers, because the problems are multifaceted and it starts in the home. "And, there is no home so we may have to think about giving them orphanages. That doesn't sound good but we've got to give our kids a safe, clean home where they can study and succeed," Clark said.

Clark also targeted Ebonics, the Black English that the Oakland (CA) Board of Education recently recognized as an official language. "Black English is just a cover-up for school corruption. This can be devastating to learning potential," he said. "Don't take my word just 'as' yourself how many successful blacks 'be' talking Black English." He said if they come to him talking that nonsense he will not hire them.

Clark told the youth if they can learn a Snoopy Dog rap, then they can learn English and their times tables. "If you can bounce a round ball on a flat floor, shoot it at a right angle against a square backboard, put it through an oval hoop, then you can learn geometry and trigonometry." He asked all the youths to stand an repeat an oath of commitment, ending with, "I am bold and beautiful. I am somebody, because God made me no junk."

Donald Lewis of Asbury Park, said that he had met Clark before his



Educator Joe Louis Clark is welcomed to St. Stephen AME Zion Church, Asbury Park, by Allen Camp, chairman of the Steward Board.

famous movie, *Lean On Me*, in Paterson in 1986, while working as a vacuum cleaner salesman and was quite impressed that Clark was very positive and real.

Tyvette Miller, Youth Council Vice President, was Mistress of Ceremonies, and is a honor student at Asbury Park High School said she enjoyed his speech and was glad that he could come.

The audience was jubilantly entertained by three choirs. The church's Johnson Voices of Praise Children

Choir sang *Now I Can Send My Love To Jesus*. The Youth Explosion Choir of Neptune sang *Praise Him*. And the Living Word Christian Fellowship Adult Choir of Neptune sang *You Are The Strength of My Life*.

Martin Luther King Jr. Awards were presented to various individuals, organizations and businesses in recognition of their service to the community. Rev. Derinze Johnson, pastor, in closing the program repeated its theme, "Wake Up! Speak Up! Our Youth Are In A Crisis."

Montclair deaths: mother, children found dead

continued from page 1

He refused to speculate on the possibility of a murder-suicide scenario. He also would not discuss the children's deaths and would say only that Ms. Bennett was a single parent. "I have no understanding why this would happen, whether it's homicide or suicide," said her attorney, Jane Herchenroder. "She was a promising young woman. It's very distressing. She was working. She had gotten off of welfare. She was taking care of her children."

Herchenroder said she helped Ms. Bennett in her struggle to get child support payments from Wylie Willis, an Orange police officer, for the youngest child.

Willis denied paternity, but a March court order declared he was the father and ordered the city to withhold child support payments, she said.

Willis had an unpublished home phone number and the police department refused to take a message for him Wednesday night.

Ms. Bennett, who was working part-time as a lab technician for a computer company and also was a part-time college student, also had recently begun getting some payments from

ex-husband James Cheeks, who was an inmate at a federal prison in Pennsylvania, Herchenroder said.

Russo said he would not comment on other aspects of the case until Thursday when he had preliminary autopsy reports.

"We're looking into all and any aspects which may be connected to this," Russo said.

A person whose police would not identify made a 911 call about 7 a.m. reporting heavy black smoke coming from the first floor of the two-family, three-story fire structure.

Firefighters found a smoldering couch, but the cause of the fire and whether it had been intentionally set was not immediately determined.

The four were all found in a downstairs bedroom after firefighters forced the door open. When firefighters found the children, they thought they were overcome by smoke inhalation.

As firefighters attended to the children, they discovered blood in the area, Russo said. "Upon removal of the children, firefighters discovered that the youngsters had apparently also suffered gunshot wounds around the neck."

An elderly woman who lived in an upstairs apartment was able to get

out of the home safely, but Russo would not comment further on her.

He said police had responded to the home on Monday, but it didn't involve anything to do with apparently what took place today. "He refused to discuss the nature of the complaint but said it was not domestic violence-related."

Neighbors gathered outside the home as the bodies were removed from the house, located in a working-class neighborhood a few blocks from the downtown of this New York City suburb of 38,000.

"It's very troubling," said a next-door neighbor who did not want to be identified. "You read about these things all the time and you never think it's going to happen here."

Stephanie Jones babysat the youngest child two summers ago for \$35 a week while Ms. Bennett worked a part-time job.

"This is unbelievable to me. That's why I had to come see for myself," Ms. Jones said. "My heart just dropped."

Neighbor Samuel Robinson III, 17, said the children always appeared

happy when he saw them with their mother.

"I'd see them rolling in the dirt playing with their mother," Robinson said as he stood behind yellow police tape watching investigators go in and out of the home.

"This is definitely a tragedy — three little girls," said Steven Booker, 17. "This is ridiculous."

Counselors were at the Northeast Elementary School to speak with grieving students and teachers, said William Liberra, superintendent of Montclair Public Schools.

Crossroads gets AT&T grant

AT&T announced its 1997 grants for the production of six new plays and one musical through AT&T On Stage the company's non-profit theater sponsorship program. These grants which total nearly \$500,000, will help bring the stage new plays by Atlanta, New Brunswick, New York City, Seattle, and London. As one of the leading corporate sponsors of non-profit theaters nationwide, AT&T provides funds for the presentation of original works both nationally and internationally.

Crossroads Theatre Company was selected from among 85 invited applicants from around the world. Funding will be used for the produc-

tion of *Wedding Dance* scheduled to open in March.

According to the press release announcement, "This is a direct reflection of not only the strength of the play and of the theater, but of the cultural landscape of New Jersey."

A commitment to public service and enhancing the quality of life in the communities in which we live and work has been a core value of AT&T since the Company's founding a century ago," stated Tim MacClinton, executive director of the AT&T Foundation, "and AT&T has been proud of its ongoing support of a broad range of programs in theater, dance, music, and the visual arts."

City News Religious Directory

Trinity and St. Phillips Cathedral

Church Services:
Weekdays:
12:10 p.m.
Sun. 8 & 10 a.m.

24 Rectory St.,
Newark, NJ
07102

201-622-3505

Rev. Petero A.N. Sabune

Imani Baptist Church

Church Services:
Sun. 11:00 a.m.

428 Central Ave.
East Orange, NJ
201-478-7222

Rev. Moses Alexander Knott, Jr.

Tabernacle Baptist Church

Church Services:
Sun. 10 a.m. -
1 p.m.

925 Riddgewood Ave., North
Brunswick, NJ
08902

908-545-4063

Pastor Leo H. Graham

Faith Tabernacle Church

Church Services:
Weekdays:
Fri. 7:30 p.m.
Sun. 10:45 a.m. &
6:00 p.m.

1037 Frank Street,
Roselle Park, NJ 07068

201-622-3505

Bishop Herbert L. Bright

Abundant Life Family Worship Center

Church Services:
Sun. 8 - 11 a.m.

45 Hampton St.,
Metuchen, NJ
08840

908-545-3897

Rev. Ronald L. Owens

INVESTORS SAVINGS BANK

Invest with the best!

Passbook savings available!

Rates effective January 21st.
Subject to change without notice. Interest is compounded continuously and payable monthly. Penalty for early withdrawal from certificates.

CORPORATE OFFICE: 240 Madison Avenue, Midtown CHATHAM: 139 Main Street CLARK: 20 Westfield Avenue Bridleford Shopping Center COLTS NECK: Highway 34, PO Box 127 DEAL: 240 Newland Avenue, PO Box 227 EAST ORANGE: 27 Prospect Street	FREEHOLD: Highway 1 & 2, Capital Plaza HILLSIDE: 1123 Liberty Avenue BRIDGEWATER: 34 Union Avenue LIVINGSTON: 410 South Livingston Avenue 571 East Northfield Road LONG BRANCH: 100 Broadway	MADISON: 100 Morris Avenue MILLBURN: 242 Millburn Avenue HAWESING: Highway 38 and Valley Oaks PLAINFIELD: 120 Westfield Avenue SHORT HILLS: The Mall (Upper Level) SPRINGFIELD: 103 Mountain Road Mountain and Morris Avenue SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS: Highway 21 and Morris Avenue TOMS RIVER: 215 Route 18, Sky Plaza (2nd Floor Corner) UNION: 47499 Expressway Avenue Rural Shopping Center, Route 224
--	---	--

MAC is a New Jersey Savings Bank
DEPOSIT FOR REQUIRED TO \$100,000

GLORY STORIES

Good Taste For The Table. Good Taste For The Soul



Celebrating The Traditions

In honor of Black History Month, we dedicate this column to those ancestors who took very little in the way of food supplies and created the Southern meals we still enjoy today. They gave us a cooking tradition to relish.

Along with watermelon seeds, sesame seeds, okra and a knowledge of spices, our African ancestors brought cooking skills that included baking, roasting, boiling, frying,

steaming and toasting. Most of these methods were done over a fire or in the ashes of a fire. It is a combination of stews made from scraps of meat and vegetables, cauldrons of slowly simmering pig's feet and sweet potatoes baked in ashes that is the forerunner of Southern American cuisine.



We are all aware of the ancestors that served as cooks in the master's kitchens, but there were far more cooks in the cabins than could ever work in the master's house. Their ingenuity at blending spices and herbs coupled with their care and patience in preparing and cooking vegetables, gave birth to traditional Southern fare. After the abolition of slavery, former slaves and their descendants dispersed throughout America carrying the traditions of Southern cooking to a variety of venues across the United

States. It is with this in mind that Glory Foods pre-seasoned canned vegetables were created. Because we appreciate your desire to enjoy down-home goodness without hours of preparation, we have developed a full-line of Southern-style vegetables that you simply heat and eat.



Glory Foods' products are a new tradition for you to

cherish. Celebrate our heritage with traditional Southern favorites like Buttermilk Fried Chicken, Easy Potato Salad and Baked Apples while enjoying the convenience and good taste of Glory Foods Pre-Seasoned Lima Beans, Field Peas with Snaps and Mustard Greens, as well as delicious Homestyle Corn Bread Mix.

BUTTERMILK FRIED CHICKEN

Ingredients
Fryer Chicken.....1 or 2
Buttermilk.....1 Quart
Flour.....3 Cups
Garlic Powder.....3 Tbls.
Poultry Seasoning.....1 Tbl.
Paprika.....2 Tbls.
Salt.....2 Tbls.
Black Pepper.....2 Tbls.
Oil or Shortening.....As needed

Method

1. Cut chicken into parts. Rinse and remove excess moisture. Soak overnight in buttermilk, turning once to coat evenly.
2. Place remaining ingredients, except oil/shortening, in a large plastic bag and shake to blend.
3. In a large, heavy bottom pot, place enough oil/shortening to have at least 4 inches of melted fat. Heat to just below smoking.
4. Drain the buttermilk and sprinkle the chicken with salt and pepper. Test the oil by sprinkling a pinch of flour into the oil. If it begins to sizzle, the oil is hot enough.
5. Drop 4-5 pieces of chicken in the flour and shake to coat thoroughly. Carefully place those pieces in the oil and cook until golden. Check a larger piece to see if it is done. If the outside browns before the inside cooks, lower the heat. Be careful not to overcrowd the pot.
6. After the chicken cooks, drain on paper towel and continue until all is done.

EASY POTATO SALAD

Ingredients
Glory Foods
Peppercorn Sauce.....1 Tbl.
Potatoes.....8 Large
(diced and boiled)
Eggs.....6
(boiled and chopped)
Mayonnaise.....1 1/2 Cups
Sweet Pickle Relish.....3/4 Cup
Ground Mustard.....2 tsp.
2 Tbls. Prepared Mustard
Sugar (optional).....1 tsp.
Salt and Pepper.....To taste

Method

1. Combine all ingredients and season with salt and pepper. Refrigerate or serve at room temperature.
Yields 6 Cups

BAKED APPLES

Ingredients
* Apples.....6
Butter or
Margarine (softened).....1/2 Cup
Oats.....2/3 Cup
Pecans or
Walnuts (chopped).....2/3 Cup
Brown Sugar (packed).....2/3 Cup
Flour.....4 Tbls.
Granulated Sugar.....2 Tbls.
Cinnamon, ground.....1 tsp.
Allspice, ground.....1/2 tsp.
Nutmeg, ground.....1/4 tsp.
*For this recipe, Granny Smith, Macintosh, or Winesap apples work best.

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Combine all dry ingredients and mix thoroughly. Add the softened butter or margarine to dry mixture and mix thoroughly.
2. Cut the tops from the apples directly below the stem. Core the center of the larger portion of the apple completely. Stuff the holes tightly with the filling and cover the tops of the apples with 1/2 inch of filling.
3. Bake the apples on a cookie sheet along with the stem piece (cut side down) for 20 to 30 minutes until the tops are browned and the apples are softened, yet still firm.
4. Allow to cool somewhat but serve warm. Garnish with caramel topping and whipped cream or ice cream.
5. To avoid those extra fat calories, blend the granulated sugar and spices thoroughly and sprinkle over the apples. Bake as directed but check after 15 minutes.

Yields 6 Apples

For questions or comments, please write to:
Glory Foods, Inc. • P.O. Box 328948
Columbus, Ohio 43232
Until Next Month,
Good Cooking!



YOUR MOM GOT THE PRAISE... NOW YOU CAN HAVE THE GLORY.

Remember the unforgettable taste of Mom's home cooking? It's a taste that went right to your soul. Nothing in the world could compare to her delicious meals. Her special mixture of herbs and spices gave each dish a taste all its own and you thanked her in more ways than you know, each and every time you asked for seconds.

Now, you can create those special memories for your family. With Glory Foods conveniently packaged pre-seasoned

side dishes, you can give your family a quick, delicious meal that delivers the taste of yesterday's down-home cooking today!

Glory Foods lets you experience in minutes a variety of Southern-style canned vegetables seasoned and accented with the flavor of home. You just heat



them and eat them. Now, we know the best food you've ever tasted will always be your Mom's, but Glory Foods' real good, feel good, down-home flavor comes so close, it's **Just About The Best!**

So, be sure to look for these fine, pre-seasoned products from Glory Foods at your local supermarket. Fancy Cut

Collard Greens, Mustard Greens, Turnip Greens, Mixed Greens and Kale Greens. Deliciously seasoned Field Peas, Field Peas with Snaps, Blackeye Peas, Butter Beans, Lima Beans, Pinto Beans, Great Northern Beans, String Beans, String Beans and Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes and Cut Okra. Complement your meal with Glory's Hot Sauce, Peppercorn Vinegar and moist, delicious Homestyle Corn Bread Mix and Golden Corn Muffin Mix.

AVAILABLE AT PATHMARK

Business Calendar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

WEST ORANGE—The New Jersey Advertising Club presents a program called "Maximizing Your Potential. In Business and in Life." The speaker is Stephen D. Rice, President of PerformMAX, Inc. 6:00 - 8:30 pm at the Altium Country Club. For more information, call 201-986-5133.

PATERSON—Business Card Exchange Night, sponsored by Northern NJ African-American Chamber of Commerce, 7:30 pm at the Integrity Music Temple, 224 Broadway. For more information, call (908)725-1712.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

SOMERSET—A Business Card Exchange Social sponsored by the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce will be held 5:30-7:30 pm at the Doubletree Hotel. For more information, call (908)725-1552.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

NEW YORK—Frederick and Barbara Bell, authors of *Killer Interviews*, will lecture at the Rockefeller Center Barnes & Noble on the essentials of strategic planning successful job interviews. For more information, call 212-765-0992.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

PLAINFIELD—Unit—Workshop on flexible benefit plans from the Volunteer Center of Plainfield, 8:30 pm at the Center, 470 Maranocko Road. For more information, call 914-948-4452.

PLAINFIELD—Business Clinic 6:30 to 8:30 pm at United National Bank Community Education Center, 208 West Second St. For more information, call 908-756-5000.

Black businesses organize S.T.E.R. in Asbury Park

by Avery Grant

ASBURY PARK—More than 25 Asbury Park black business owners met 21 members of the Chicago-based Straight Talk Economic Roundtable (S.T.E.R.) on January 21, 1997 to form a local chapter.

Betty Atkins of Aliza Service Corporation, Asbury Park, arranged the meeting through the coordination of Lawanda Kamara of Kama International & Associates in North Plainfield. Atkins in her opening remarks said, "About two weeks ago we received a fax confirming the S.T.E.R. visit and arranged for the meeting that took place in City Hall last Sunday evening. This meeting is now to seriously begin the formation of our local organization."

S.T.E.R. is a business consortium based out of Chicago that is expanding to the East and West coasts. Edward Bassette, owner of B. Egan Men's Store in Chicago, and S.T.E.R. president, in his introductory remarks, said, "Our concept is to trade with each other and to help each other grow together." Further explaining that businesses are the leaders in the communities because they do business and hire people in the neighborhood, S.T.E.R. believes that businesses should take the lead in changing people's buying attitudes and take the lead in economic development more than churches and civil rights organizations. "Churches want to get your souls to God, a civil rights



Asbury Park Mayor Carl Williams with Edward Bassette, president of the Chicago-based Straight Talk Economic Roundtable during their visit with Asbury Park business owners.

Photo by Avery Grant

organizations work to get you equal opportunities in white businesses," continued Bassette, "but we are saying create and build your businesses and gain true economic liberation."

Asbury Park Mayor Carl Williams, who welcomed the group to the city, said that he was very impressed with their philosophy, operations and success, and encouraged the local business owners to listen closely and to organize.

Straight Talk Economic Roundtable is a 150-member organization whose members provide every service from accounting, computers, elevator engineering to food service, janitorial service, medical, retail, television and trucking. The visiting members were quite impressive and owed very successful businesses.

Ernie Terrell, former world's heavyweight boxing champion, and owner of Terrell's Janitorial Service, said, "I have a contract with the Board of Education to clean public schools and I have 400 employees. I also promote boxing and have fighters in the Top 10 in the nation."

Babette Peyton, president and CEO of Peyton Elevator Company, told the group, "We design, build, install, maintain and modernize elevators, escalators, moving walkways and all people transporting systems. She is also a member of the Public Safety Codes and Standards Committee of the American Association of Mechanical Engineers.

Although all were very successful

in their various businesses, they all stressed the importance of working together through S.T.E.R. They said they spend a lot of time together, and are friends and their family members are friends. "Sometimes we even get together and 30 or 40 will attend a member's church on Sunday," said Rev. Anthony Williams.

President Bassette stressed that S.T.E.R. meets every Thursday morning at 7 am no matter whether it is sunny, rainy or snowing. We meet to handle issues and to make business deals. One deal with Honer King Meat Company, Inc., brought in \$10 million to that business. Altogether the consortium has realized over \$80 million in business deals.

One member added, "We are trying to build a 'Country Club' (of business) for ourselves. We thought that (whites) didn't want to play golf with them, but the real truth is that many big business deals are made around the table at country clubs, and they wanted to keep us out of those."

Mayor Williams, who had seen their demonstration at City Hall Sunday, asked them to demonstrate how borrowing money and passing it from owner to owner generates business, wealth and good credit ratings. Five persons stood in a circle and passed just \$200 in a circle among themselves twice to pay off a \$400 debt between each, and it made the point that circulating capital (in the neighborhood) builds capital while producing employment and many

other effects too.

They also emphasized how buying in your community is contagious, when they see owners buying from each other, and by family members and friends. Vincent Gilliard, a small business attorney, said, "Blacks have about \$500 billion monthly to spend and they must learn to use that economic power to help themselves."

"Black women spend about 65 percent of their money in their households, so if I could convince my wife and daughter to spend in our community, then my daughter could bring home a husband with a job," Gilliard said.

The group was told about a rebate program they have for repeat customers, their nightly television program, and about business shows they have every two months in Romeus' indoor mall to increase awareness of black businesses and to generate business.

Melvin Hubbard, owner of Mel-Cor Financial Services Ltd. distributed membership applications, organized a chart, and discussed agenda formats and standing committees. He said, "That S.T.E.R. had packed everything so that you would not have to spend time devising things and to expedite the formation," he continued. "It is very important that you have everyone involved on a committee. You cannot come to a meeting and be a wall-floater."



by Harry C. Allford
President & CEO, National Black Chamber of Commerce

Corporate America has an ingrained notion that the way you handle diversity in your business practices with the Black community is via public relations. They spin community lenders with visions of outreach use the media, mainstream and Black, to present a positive image of utilizing black vendors and service providers. The bottom line is that Black businesses are utilized at about the 1 percent participation level. This is throughout every industry and niche in this nation. Don't believe anything else.

The banking industry is no different. In fact, it's clearly worse and much of that is due to the way we have structured banking laws that pertain to community development and business participation. Here's a claim that will blow your mind. Majority owned banks lend to black owned businesses at a rate that is 12.1 percent of their total business loans. That's 5 percent to a population that represents over 12 percent of the nation. Clearly, what we have here is economic exploitation.

The NBCC challenges any majority owned bank in the nation to prove itself to be a notable exception to the above claim. However, most of you don't realize this because of the spin efforts of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). Banks have established CRA offices that buy titles, donate funds and concentrate on the mortgage lending side of banking responsibilities. This is important but certainly the lifeblood of our communities must come from business development which creates jobs and cash flow for applicable neighborhoods. You cannot do this without access to capital. The largest and most common vehicle for capital access is our local banks. Thus we have a serious state of affairs. The main fishing hole "yields only 5 percent of its capacity to us."

There has been great advocacy by many astute brothers and sisters to correct this anemic state of affairs. Banks, drunk on spin artistry, have made great pledges to outreach and improve business lending. Wells Fargo has committed \$25 billion in minority business loans in California alone. Bank of America and Union Banks have followed with impressive commitments. Also, Nations Bank, perhaps the biggest spin artist of all, has claimed to be doing

As closing note, S.T.E.R. Chairman William Williams, owner of Star Planet Television Network, said, "Please know that we work with other churches, organizations and business groups, we are not an organization exclusive to ourselves, our members are active in our community."

Bob Jameson, owner of Country Kitchen in Long Branch, related his unusual and impressive meeting with one of the S.T.E.R. visitors. He said that at the Sunday meeting, that he met Walt Brooks, owner of Eat-N-Run Restaurants in Chicago. Brooks told him that he had the best chicken batter in the world in his briefcase. After the meeting they traveled from Asbury Park to Jameson's restaurant in Long Branch and Brooks, "battered and cooked chicken while we assessed his suit. I have never experienced that before in my life. But that's what's it's all about."

This meeting was hosted by John Brown at his newly opened El Lobo Negro Art Gallery at 519 Bangs Avenue, Asbury Park. Jameson provided a delicious buffet, courtesy of his restaurant, Country Kitchen.

Betty Atkins announced that the next meeting would be Thursday, January 30, 1997 at her home. For information her business telephone number is (908) 774-7095.

Banks write 'checks' they can't cash

significant amounts with black businesses. The truth is this, it is against the law for banks to compile business lending data by race. They don't track it or keep records. Thus, how can they make a pledge to something that is illegal to monitor or verify? They can't.

Regulation B of the Fair Lending Law of 1973 makes it illegal to note loan applications by face or to make any racial reference to lending practices. This regulation was well intended as authors visualized loan officers coding applications so that the approving sources could determine racial background of the applicant and become bias in their reasoning, all discrimination. However, now in the 1990s we realize that because of Regulation B we can't accurately monitor a bank's performance. We have through the investigating efforts of the California based Greenlining Coalition (founded by the San Francisco Black chamber of Commerce) determined that 5 percent is the best any of the banks are doing with Black businesses and 1 percent with Hispanic businesses. The claims of Nations and the commitments of Wells Fargo et al., will not hold water. Changes in Regulation B are needed immediately.

We have appealed to Alan Greenspan of the Federal Reserve for a board vote to allow banks to voluntarily monitor their efforts with minority businesses, specifically by race. They considered and then voted unanimously (Clinton appointees included) against our request. The fear is that banks are going to be totally embarrassed about the economic exploitation that exists. Damn well they should!

Now we must go to the banking communities of the House of Representatives and the Senate for relief. Also, we must stump and educate the Department of Treasury, FDIC and the Office of Thrift Supervision. They will take up to nine months to thoroughly educate and sell both Republicans and Democrats on the need and, at the same time, keep time bank lobbyists at bay.

Monitoring practices of the banks' business lending activities is the only way we can evaluate who is doing the right thing and who is not. Currently, none of them are because, in America, if business is hot held accountable it probably won't be too responsive. Amazingly, Regulation B will economically empower our urban and rural communities quickly. Let us all unite and march toward this prize.

(908) 755-5572
RICHARD H. WILLIAMS, D.D.S.
FAMILY & COSMETIC DENTISTRY
Formally the office of Victor K. Lightfoot
OFFICE HOURS
BY APPOINTMENT
217 CHURCH STREET
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07060
Personal Injury Matters
LAW OFFICES
Thomas E. Hood
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
19 EAST SEVENTH STREET PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07060
(908) 757-7777 FAX: (908) 757-7652
CERTIFIED CIVIL TRIAL ATTORNEY

Business & Professional Directory

FJK UNLIMITED
Est. 1994
The Best Payroll and Tax Service.
7 Glenwood Avenue.
E. Orange, NJ 07017
201-672-8144
Francine T. Kerr
Partner
James W. Kerr
Partner

INFINITY ENTERPRISES INSTITUTE
208 Commerce Pl., 2nd Fl.,
Elizabeth, NJ (908) 355-7000
Register Now... New classes, Seating is Limited!!!
• PC Assembly & Repair (Build your own Computer)
• Computer Theory and Troubleshooting
• Software training (Word, Excel, Windows, Wordperfect and other applications)

FAST ACTION WHEN YOU NEED IT!
ACTION BAIL BOND AND INSURANCE
AUTO - HOME - HEALTH
24 HOUR SERVICE
908-733-1212 OFFICE
908-400-6151
JOHNNY McPHERSON
159 EAST 4TH STREET
PLAINFIELD, NJ, 07060

Don't miss out. Nominate one of New Jersey's 100 Most Influential!
Deadline Feb 1, 1997 See page 2 for form.

Whitman discusses college savings plan

NEW BRUNSWICK—Gov. Christie Whitman spent the lunch hour discussing the NJBEST college savings program with employees of Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick. The governor unveiled NJBEST, the New Jersey Better Education Savings Trust, during her State of the State address last week.

NJBEST would provide a powerful tool for all New Jersey families to save for college education. Interest earned through the program would be fully exempt from the New Jersey income tax and tax-deferred from federal taxes, the Governor said.

Under NJBEST, students, parents or others would be able to establish individual trust accounts for as little as \$25 per month. Contributions to the trust fund would be invested and distributed with state tax-free interest provided that the beneficiary uses those savings for qualified higher education expenses.

Qualified educational expenses

****NOTICE OF MEETINGS****
The following are the dates, times, and places of meetings of the Board of commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Passaic.

DATE	TIME	PLACE
Wed., Feb. 19, 1997	7:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers 330 Passaic Street 299 Gregory Avenue 14-34 East Monroe Street
Wed., Mar. 19, 1997	7:00 P.M.	203 Sixth Street 45 Aspen Recreational Room
Wed., May 21, 1997	7:00 P.M.	234 Chestnut Street 14-34 East Monroe Street
Wed., June 18, 1997	7:00 P.M.	203 Sixth Street 299 Gregory Avenue 234 Chestnut Street City Council Chambers 330 Passaic Street
Wed., July 16, 1997	7:00 P.M.	
Wed., Aug. 20, 1997	7:00 P.M.	
Wed., Sep. 17, 1997	7:00 P.M.	
Wed., Oct. 15, 1997	7:00 P.M.	
Wed., Nov. 19, 1997	7:00 P.M.	
Wed., Dec. 17, 1997	7:00 P.M.	

All meetings open to the public and the public is encouraged to attend.
ERIC KOLBE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Get City News every week.
To subscribe call
908-754-3400.